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December 5th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Amsterdam, dated 7th Sept., 1854, accompanying their donations acknowledged this evening.

From the City Library, Leipsic, dated 2d Oct., 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy.

From the New York State Library, dated 28th Nov., 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the last number of the Proceedings.

From Mr. John Landis, dated Hempfield, Penn., transmitting some minerals from that vicinity, and requesting an examination thereof.

From Prof. B. L. C. Wailes, dated Washington, Miss., acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent of the Academy.

From Dr. Bennett Dowler, dated New Orleans, 1st Nov. 1854, transmitting two specimens of fœtal fishes, with a printed description of viviparous fishes found in Louisiana.

Dr. Leidy read a paper intended for publication, entitled, "Remarks on the identity of Bootherium cavifrons with Ovibos moschatus, or O. maximus." Referred to Dr. Le Conte, Mr. Foulke, and Dr. Hallowell.

Dr. Leidy exhibited a drawing of a species of *Hydrachna*, which he had found in various conditions of development in the mantle of *Unio purpureus.* They were very numerous, some specimens containing a thousand or more.

December 12th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Eugene Borda, dated Minersville, Penn., Dec. 1854, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Member.

Dr. Le Conte presented two papers for publication in the Proceedings, severally entitled, "Descriptions of the species of Trox and Omorgus inhabiting the United States," and "Some corrections in the Nomenclature of Coleoptera found in the United States;" both of which were referred to Mr. Cassin, Dr. Zantzinger, and Prof. Baird.

A paper from Mr. Girard, intended for publication, was presented, entitled, "Abstract of a report to Lieut J. M. Gilliss, U. S. N., upon the Reptiles collected during the U. S. Naval Astronomical Expedition to Chili." Referred to Dr. Hallowell, Mr. Lea, and Major Le Conte.

December 19th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From Lieut. G. H. Hare, dated Philadelphia, 19th Dec., 1854, transmitting numerous donations to Museum acknowledged this evening. The collections were made by Count Bernardi and himself.

From Mr. S. S. Rathvon, dated Lancaster, Penn., 5th Dec., 1854, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election, as a Correspondent.

From John C. Dalton, Jr., dated New York, 7th Nov., 1854, of same tenor.

From the Trustees of the British Museum, dated 2d Nov., 1854, acknowledging the receipt of late numbers of the Proceedings.

From the Natural History Association of Prussian Rhineland and Westphalia, dated 25th August, 1854, transmitting their publications acknowledged this evening, and requesting exchanges.

From the Royal Society of Sciences of Göttingen, dated 2d July, 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy.

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Bavaria, dated Munich, —— 1854, stating that the publications of the Academy sent them are placed in the private library of the King of Bavaria, and requesting duplicate copies for that Society. Referred to the Committees on Publication and Proceedings.

From the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Vienna, dated 18th June, 10th Aug., and Nov. 3d, 1854, accompanying the donations acknowledged this evening.

From Dr. J. H. Molkenboer, dated Leyden, 12th June, 1854, accompanying the donations announced this evening.

Dr. Le Conte presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings entitled, "Descriptions of new Coleoptera collected by Thos. H. Webb, M.D., in the years 1850–1–2 while Secretary to the U. S. and Mexican Boundary Commission." Referred to Dr. Zantzinger, Dr. Henderson, and Prof. Haldeman.

Mr. Cassin presented a paper for publication, entitled, "List of the species of Pigeons of the genus Carpophagus, Swainson, in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and of the U. S. Exploring Expedition, Washington, D. C., with descriptions of new and little known species." Referred to Col. McCall, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Woodhouse.

Dr. Genth presented for publication a paper, entitled, "Herrerite identical with Smithsonite." Referred to Dr. Wetherill, Dr. Rand, and Dr. Bridges.

Dr. Wetherill presented a paper for publication, entitled "Chemical Notices." Referred to Dr. Rand, Dr. Bridges, and Dr. Genth.

Dr. Wetherill called the attention of the members to the experiments of Dr. Stenhouse upon the action of charcoal on animal substances in promoting their rapid destruction, a fact first noticed by Mr. Turnbull, of London. In the experiments of Dr. Stenhouse, small animals were covered with powdered charcoal, and the soft parts were speedily destroyed. No offensive odor was noticed, although the experiments were conducted in the laboratory. Dr. Wetherill suggested the use of this agent in the preparations of the skeletons of small animals.

Mr. Cassin stated that at the present time, and for several weeks past, the white-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera) has been exceedingly abundant in the neighborhood of this city, and noticed the fact that this had been the case, notwithstanding that the weather had not been more rigorous than usual at this season. This bird has not appeared here until the present month, since the winter of 1836–7, when it and other northern birds were very abundant. As yet, the bird alluded to has not been ascertained to be accompanied by other species, but is more abundant than during its visit in 1836–7. During an excursion in New Jersey, a few miles from Philadelphia, Mr. C. stated that he saw not only boys shooting crossbills in large numbers, but killing them with stones, which their frequenting low pine trees, and their apparent entire want of acquaintance with danger, rendered not difficult. They, in fact, manifest the utmost simplicity of habits, showing even no signs of alarm at the report of the gun, and continue quietly searching for food without regarding the death of their companions.

A collector of this city recently shot seventy-eight specimens in the course of one morning, and Mr. Drexler, lately employed by the Academy as taxidermist, shot twenty-seven specimens this day. It would appear from the unsuspicious manners of these birds that they have migrated from regions not settled by the white races of men, and their appearance here in such large numbers may be considered as demonstrative that the winter in the north either commenced unusually early, thus preventing the maturity of the buds on which they subsist, or that it has been of great severity.

December 26th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Committees on papers by Mr. Joseph Jones, of Georgia, read October 25th; by Dr. Leidy, read Dec. 5th; by Dr. Le Conte, read Dec. 12th and 19th; by Mr. Girard, read Dec. 12th; by Mr. Cassin, read Dec. 19th; by Dr. Genth, read same date; by Dr. Wetherill, read same date; and by Mr. Isaac Lea, read Feb. 7th, 1854, severally reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

An Abstract of Experiments upon the Physical Influences exerted by Living Organic, and Inorganic, Membranes, upon Chemical Substances passing through them by Endosmose.

By JOSEPH JONES.

The phenomenon of endosmose is coeval with that of life. All organized beings spring from organic cells. Each cell is a chemical laboratory; the materials for its nutrition, growth, and elaboration all pass through its walls by endosmose. What is true of the organic cell, is also true of every living organism, however simple or complex, because all its acts of nutrition, secretion, and growth, are carried on by organic cells. These facts show the important bearing of endosmose upon physiology and pathology, and demonstrate the absolute necessity of studying and understanding its phenomena, and developing, as far as possible, all its physical laws.

A true knowledge of these can only be gained by careful, laborious, and numerous experiments.

Experiments upon Living Animals, showing that their Membranes exert a Physical Influence capable of changing the molecular arrangement of Chemical Substances in solution, passing through them by Endosmose.

Immersed the belly and lower extremities of a large spring-frog, in a strong solution of the chloride of calcium, and allowed it to remain for an hour; then washing it carefully with water, immersed its lower extremities in a strong solution of the oxalate of ammonia. It remained in this solution for one hour,